

Message Text

SECRET

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22

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W
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O R 061116Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3381

INFO AMEMBASSY MUSCAT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

S E C R E T LONDON 10442

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: MARR, MU, UK

SUBJECT: USE OF MASIRAH IN OMAN

REFERENCE: A) STATE 166422; B) LONDON 10434

1. WHILE WE ARE WAITING FOR BRITISH TO INFORM US OF QABOOS REACTION TO THE PROPOSED FLIGHTS. WE SHOULD ADD TO REFTEL (B) FURTHER COMMENTS MADE BY LUCAS AND MOD OFFICIALS ON JULY 5. BRITISH WARNED US THAT WHEN THEY RAISE THIS PROPOSAL WITH QABOOS, HE MIGHT THINK AGAIN AND GIVE A LESS STRAIGHTFORWARD ANSWER ON US USE OF MASIRAH. HE IS NOT ALWAYS IMMEDIATELY SENSITIVE TO POLITICO-MILITARY IMPLICATIONS AND MIGHT BE CONCERNED THAT BY ALLOWING US USE OF THE ISLAND WHILE THE BRITISH ARE STILL THERE HE WOULD BE OPEN TO CHARGES THAT HE IS ALLOWING AN ANGLO/AMERICAN BASE TO BE ESTABLISHED ON OMANI TERRITORY.

2. BRITISH ALSO NOTED THAT IF WE DO NOT REQUEST AUTHORITY FOR EACH FLIGHT FROM OMANIS, WE MIGHT ESTABLISH A PATTERN OF USE ONLY WITH THE BRITISH IN CONTROL, WHEREAS OUR INTENTION IS TO ESTABLISH A PATTERN WITH OMANIS AS RESIDUAL OWNERS OF BASE.

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3. MOD OFFICIALS NOTED THAT RAF DRAW-DOWN OF THE BASE

HAS ALREADY STARTED, SO THAT THE AIRPORT IS NO LONGER
OPEN 16 HOURS PER DAY, 7 DAYS PER WEEK. THEY SAID MOD
WILL BE HAPPY TO REMOVE THE REST OF THE RAF FORCES THERE
WHO "HAVE NOTHING TO DO."

4. ACTION REQUESTED BY EMBASSY: SINCE THE MOD HAS AL-
READY BEEN DISCUSSING THE PROPOSED USE OF MASIRAH WITH
CINCUSNAVEUR, NOW THAT WE HAVE CARRIED OUT THE DIPLOMATIC
APPROACH ON SPECIFICS WE STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT
CINCUSNAVEUR BE MADE AN INFO ADDRESSEE ON ALL FURTHER
STATE CABLES ON THIS SUBJECT.

SPIERS

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NNN

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